



Citizen outreach leads to voluntary efforts to reduce stormwater runoff

Featured Project

The Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD) and the statewide nonprofit Minnesota Waters have a unique partnership to carry out MCWD's Watershed Association Initiative (WAI) – a program to empower citizens to protect and improve district waters by providing trainings, support and fostering a network of lake and river groups. The initiative also strongly encourages groups to collaborate with community businesses, organizations, and government agencies.

One example of this effort is the Go Blue! Diamond Lake Project. The Friends of Diamond Lake formed approximately three years ago with help from the MCWD as part of the WAI. The Friends of Diamond Lake, working with Minnesota Waters, completed a lake management plan that was approved by the Minneapolis Park Board last fall. The plan includes a goal to champion projects by local property owners to reduce runoff. At about the same time, Hedberg Landscape and Masonry Supplies was looking for a target neighborhood for an environmental "community makeover" project. The Friends of Diamond Lake showed very strong interest in this and asked MCWD to partner with them in applying for Clean Water Fund grant money for the project.



This driveway with permeable pavers allows water to soak into the ground. It was installed as part of the Go Blue! Project in South Minneapolis, and it is one of 34 projects that will reduce stormwater runoff into Diamond Lake by about 1.5 million gallons each year.



The Go Blue! Project provides up to 50 percent cost share for residential landowners who install projects that capture stormwater runoff and pollutants before they reach Diamond Lake. As a part of the project, Metro Blooms developed stormwater management plans for all participating homeowners. Raingardens, pervious pavements, and trees capture water and help it soak into the ground. Rain barrels and larger underground systems allow for 'capture and reuse' of rainwater, reducing groundwater used for irrigation. Similar practices are planned for projects in Pearl Park and Diamond Lake Lutheran Church.

Location: Diamond Lake is located in South Minneapolis in Hennepin County.

BWSR Featured Project

Partners: Friends of Diamond Lake, Minnehaha Creek Watershed District, Hedberg Landscape and Masonry Supplies, the Hale Page Diamond Lake Community Association, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, Diamond Lake Lutheran Church, and Metro Blooms.

Project Timeline: April 2010 – December 2011

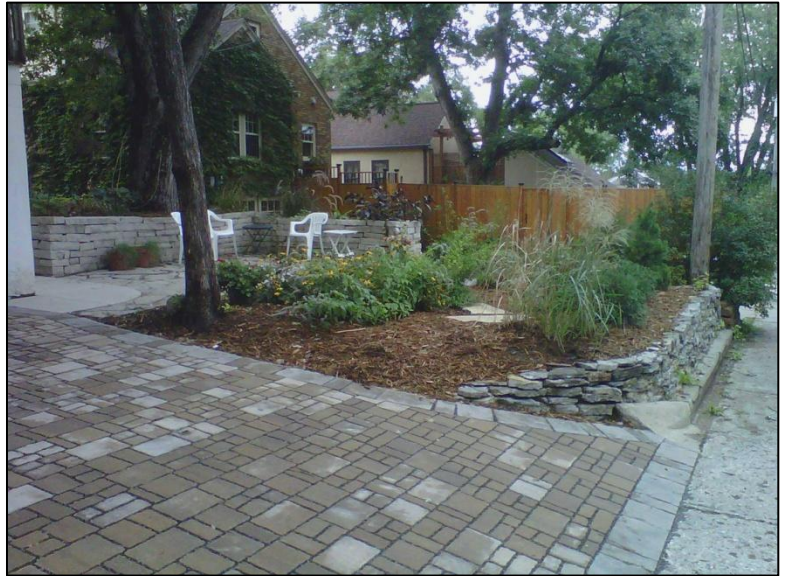
Keys to Success: This project was initiated by residents who are committed to cleaning up Diamond Lake. The Go Blue! Diamond Lake project represents that unique collaboration of engaged citizens working with private entities and local government that is essential to protecting and restoring the waters of Minnesota.

BWSR Role: BWSR staff developed a Request for Proposals under the Clean Water Fund Competitive Grant Program and was part of an inter-agency team that evaluated applications. In addition, BWSR approves water plans developed under Minnesota Statutes 103B.201 for watershed management organizations, watershed districts, and counties within the seven-county metro area.

Measureable Outcomes: 34 landowners installed projects on their property in the summer of 2010. Two additional projects will be installed at Pearl Park and Diamond Lake Lutheran Church in the spring/summer of 2011. Once the entire project is completed approximately 1.5 million gallons of stormwater runoff will be reduced from Diamond Lake each year.

For More Information:

Aldis Kurmis, Minnehaha Creek Watershed District at (952)641-4523. More information about the Go Blue! Project can also be found at www.goblue.friendsofdiamondlake.org



Pictured: 34 landowners installed projects to reduce stormwater runoff, including this driveway with permeable pavers (above) and raingardens (above and below).

